

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically and electronically retracting an electronic mail document stored in a mail database of a first server sent from a sender to a recipient, the recipient having a mailbox, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory, wherein the memory which includes at least:

a fetch monitor at the first server for monitoring activity on the mail document and marking the status of the mail document after the mail document has been sent by the sender and when it has been received in the recipient's mailbox;

a fetch control for issuing a request to retract the mail document to a fetch queue at the first server; and

a fetcher at the first server for retrieving the request from the fetch queue, retracting the mail document based on the marked status of the mail document and reporting the retracting, wherein retracting the mail document comprises (i) substituting the mail document with a stub or with updated content, and (ii) deleting the mail document or removing it from the recipient's mailbox.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the fetcher reports the retraction by sending a retraction report to the fetch queue; and

the fetch control retrieves the retraction report from the fetch queue.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a fetch log at the first server for receiving an event report from the fetcher.

4. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the fetch monitor is a Domino extension manager.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the fetcher is a Domino server add-in task.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:
the server has its own means for marking the status of the mail document and
the status is changeable by the recipient;
the user can read the mail document through preview mode without affecting the status;
the user can read the mail document through HTTP without affecting the status;
or
the user can replicate the mail document without replicating the status.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for automatically and electronically retracting an electronic mail document stored in a mail database of a first server sent from a sender to a recipient, the recipient having a mailbox, comprising the steps of:

monitoring activity on the mail document and marking the status of the mail document using a fetch monitor after the mail document has been sent by the sender and when it has been received in the recipient's mailbox;

issuing a request to retract the mail document to a fetch queue at the first server;

retrieving the request from the fetch queue at the first server;

retracting the mail document based on the marked status of the mail document by the fetcher by (i) substituting the mail document with a stub or with updated content, and (ii) deleting the mail document or removing it from the recipient's mailbox; and
reporting the retraction.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the fetcher is programmed to apply policies to determine whether the mail document is retractable, and the fetcher is further programmed to retract the mail document only if retractable according to the policies.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the policies include policies as to read/unread status of the mail document.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the policies include policies as to age of the mail document.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the policies include policies as to who may initiate a request to retract the mail document.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the fetcher is programmed to allow the policies to be amended by an operator or administrator of the first server.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for retracting an electronic mail document stored in a mail database of a first server sent from a sender to a recipient, the recipient having a mailbox, comprising the steps of:

issuing a request to retract the mail document to a fetch queue at the first server after the mail document has been sent by the sender and received in the recipient's mailbox;

retrieving the request from the fetch queue by a fetcher at the first server;

applying policies to determine whether the mail document is retractable according to the policies; and

if the mail document is retractable:

retracting the mail document by (i) substituting the mail document with a stub or with updated content, and (ii) deleting the mail document or removing it from the recipient's mailbox; and

reporting the retraction.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the policies include policies as to read/unread status of the mail document.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the policies include policies as to the age of the mail document.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the policies include policies as to who may issue the request to retract the mail document.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the policies may be amended by an operator or administrator of the first server.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of retracting the mail document comprises deleting the mail document from the mail database.
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Cancelled)